



Newsletter

SUMMER 2013

► *Inside this issue...*

Featured Successes

BPC Highlights

- [*Business Development and Economic Relations*](#)
- [*Education, Culture, Sports and Media*](#)
- [*Emergency Situations*](#)
- [*Energy*](#)
- [*Environment*](#)
- [*Health*](#)
- [*Military Cooperation*](#)
- [*Science and Technology*](#)
- [*Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Security*](#)

In Other News ...

Events Calendar

Featured Successes

“Vigilant Eagle 13” Successes

On August 29, senior military officials from the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and the Russian Federation announced significant successes in the recently concluded exercise called Vigilant Eagle.

This exercise is the fifth in a series of cooperative exercises that provide an opportunity for Russia, Canada, and United States military personnel to enhance their international partnership and to cooperatively detect, track, identify, and follow a hijacked aircraft as it proceeds across international boundaries.



A Russian air force Su-27 intercepts a simulated hijacked aircraft entering Russian airspace Aug. 27, 2013, at Exercise Vigilant Eagle 13. (Photo credit: U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jason Robertson)

The exercise kicked off August 26, with scenarios that required the United States, Canada and Russia to respond to simulated terrorist hijackings of commercial aircraft. Both NORAD, a binational command that includes the United States and Canada, and Russia had to scramble fighter jets and track and intercept the "hijacked aircraft." Throughout the exercise series, the participants have developed tactics,



techniques and procedures to effectively notify, coordinate, and conduct positive handoff of a hijacked aircraft flying through Russian, Canadian and American airspace.

This year's Vigilant Eagle delivered a significant first, with a visual fighter-to-fighter handoff of escort responsibilities in a live-fly situation as the "track of interest" moved from one country's airspace to another's. During previous Vigilant Eagle events, Russian or NORAD fighters would escort the simulated aircraft to a point in the sky where airborne or ground sensors would take over the monitoring of the hijacked aircraft. Later, the fighters of the other nation would intercept the hijacked aircraft and assume escort responsibilities for that track of interest.

Having the Russian, Canadian or American fighters joining up together to have a direct, line-of-sight handoff of escort responsibility on a track of interest was a major first in the history of this cooperation requiring extensive planning and coordination to ensure a safe, successful transfer. Such a handoff allows for 100 percent visual and physical control over an aircraft in trouble that is flying between Russian, American and Canadian airspace.

Planning by the BPC's Defense Relations Working Group for "Vigilant Eagle 14" is scheduled to begin in November 2013.

Nuclear Cooperation

On June 27, Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman met with Rosatom Director General Sergey Kiriyenko, to discuss issues of mutual concern in the areas of nuclear energy, nuclear security, and nonproliferation. The Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Security Working Group (NENSWG) meeting in St. Petersburg was an occasion to reflect on landmark accomplishments in the collaborative nonproliferation efforts of the United States and

Russia, as well as an opportunity to provide impetus to new frameworks for continued robust cooperation. Deputy Secretary Poneman and Director General Kiriyenko reviewed accomplishments over the past year and signed a joint statement that highlights bilateral cooperation in these areas.

During the bilateral meeting, Director General Kiriyenko and Deputy Secretary Poneman noted the anticipated historic completion of the 1993 Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) Purchase Agreement later this year. Deputy Secretary Poneman highlighted the HEU Purchase Agreement's strategic importance to the United States and Director General Kiriyenko stressed the positive economic and security effects of this successful bilateral cooperation.

Deputy Secretary Poneman and Director General Kiriyenko also discussed mutual efforts to reach final agreement on the Cooperation in Nuclear- and Energy-Related Scientific Research and Development Agreement. This agreement provides the legal framework necessary to expand cooperation between U.S. and Russian nuclear research laboratories, institutes, and facilities in a broad range of areas, including nuclear technology, nonproliferation, fundamental and applied science, energy, and the environment.

The delegations also celebrated the successful negotiation of the 2013 Protocol to the Framework Agreement on a Multilateral Nuclear Environmental Programme in the Russian Federation (MNEPR), which provides a legal basis for continued cooperation in nuclear security. The MNEPR Protocol succeeds and replaces the 1992 U.S. – Russia Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Agreement, which expired June 17, 2013, and brings the nonproliferation assistance programs of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration in Russia under the 2003 MNEPR Framework Agreement.



The NENSWG consists of over 10 sub-Working Groups that are chaired by subject matter counterparts. Presentations by the co-chairs for the Nuclear Security sub-Working Group focused on recent HEU minimization efforts, including HEU removals from third countries, as well as recently completed upgrades at a number of Rosatom civilian and weapons complex facilities. The co-chairs also highlighted future activities such as research reactor conversions, planned technical exchanges and workshops on physical protection and material accounting, discussions of technical issues regarding International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) verification of plutonium disposition, and potential opportunities for collaboration in the areas of export controls, international safeguards and nuclear forensics. The co-chairs for the Nuclear Energy sub-Working Group provided updates on recent accomplishments and future plans for all four Technical Elements of the Civil Nuclear Energy Working sub-Working Group, including Reactor Demonstration Projects, R&D for Innovative Nuclear Energy Technology Options, Global Civil Nuclear Energy Framework Development, and Modeling, Simulation and Safety.

BPC Highlights

Business Development and Economic Relations

Business and Economics in St. Petersburg

The coordinators of the BPC's Business Development and Economic Relations Working Group (BDERWG), Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Francisco Sanchez and Deputy Minister for Economic Development Alexey Likhachev, met in June at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

The two discussed ongoing progress on the Working Group's 2013 – 2014 Work Plan, including future plans for the U.S. – Russia dialogue on standards and conformity assessment, and developing bilateral trade and investment between the United States and Russia's regions, as well as general trade-related issues. During the forum, Under Secretary Sanchez also met with a number of Russian regional officials to gain insight into emerging opportunities for U.S. companies and investors in Russia's regions and to promote the United States as an investment and trade destination.



Under Secretary for International Trade Francisco Sanchez toasts U.S. and Russian business cooperation at a dinner with business representatives at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum

This meeting between the co-chairs was followed by a meeting in Washington, D.C. between the Governor of Ulyanovsk oblast, Sergey Morozov, with Under Secretary Sanchez to discuss recent U.S. investments in the region and his plans for stimulating economic growth.

Education, Culture, Sports and Media

Youth Orchestra in Russia

Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra from the United States of America (NYO-USA), under the direction of Maestro Valery Gergiev, performed before a packed house at the Moscow "Tchaikovsky" Conservatory July 16. The orchestra was joined by acclaimed American violinist Joshua Bell, who is himself an alumnus of an American-Soviet youth orchestra program.

Carnegie Hall's artistic and executive director, Sir Clive Gillinson, explained that the musicians auditioned online, allowing his team to conduct a truly nationwide search for the finest young instrumentalists. The group of gifted students ranged in age from sixteen to nineteen and hailed from 42 U.S. states. But the students were not selected for talent alone: the orchestra members were chosen for their maturity, commitment to music and studies, and their willingness to represent the United States as part of this prestigious initiative.

On July 18, the NYO-USA took the stage of Mariinsky II, a new opera house opposite the original Mariinsky Theater. The NYO-USA was the first American orchestra to play in the new venue, which recently opened in May 2013. The highlight of the concert program was the world premiere of the composition "Magiya" written by the young American composer Sean Shepherd especially for the inauguration of the National Youth Orchestra. Shepherd says that the title and the nature of his opus were inspired by conductor Valery Gergiev's work and various masterpieces of Russian music. The

concert in St. Petersburg was included into the Stars of the White Nights Festival, one of the most famous musical festivals in Russia.



Joshua Bell and Valery Gergiev with NYO-USA

Russia was identified as the site of the NYO-USA's international debut because of the opportunity for the orchestra and Carnegie Hall to contribute to the bilateral relationship and deepen ties between the United States and Russia. Coverage of the NYO-USA began in the United States ahead of the orchestra's performances in Purchase, New York and Washington, D.C. at the Kennedy Center. Russian media featured the orchestra's debut in Russia prominently in print and on radio and television.

Texmaniacs Continue Russia Tour

The Grammy Award-winning Tejano band, Los Texmaniacs, continued their Russian tour under the auspices of the BPC's Education, Culture, Sports and Media Working Group (ECSMWG) with performances before capacity audiences in Kaliningrad, Vologda and Cherepovets.

Of particular note was the event in Vologda, where the band participated in the "Fourth International Festival of American Folk Music in Northwest Russia." The festival also featured a popular troupe of Russian folksingers, who joined the Texmaniacs on stage at one point,

creating a musical dialogue between the countries and cultures.



Texmaniacs perform with Russian folksingers in Vologda

Fulbright Programs in Russia

The fourth Fulbright Community College Administrators Seminar took place in late spring. A group of U.S. community college administrators from Florida, Minnesota, New Jersey, Texas and California spent nearly two weeks in Russia meeting with education leaders and officials, visiting universities, technical and vocational schools, and sharing best practices and models for workforce development and access to higher education.

Their meetings resulted in the signing of a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) on technical innovation and training, including two MOUs between Broward Community College in Florida and Kazan National Technological Research University.

In addition, the Fulbright program in Moscow partnered with Moscow State University and the Higher School of Economics to develop and implement a number of summer schools within the framework of the BPC's ECSMWG. Amongst these programs was a Fulbright Summer School for Sustainable Development in Moscow June 23 – 30, hosted by the Higher School of Economics; a Fulbright Summer School in the Humanities held at Moscow State

University June 24 – 28 focused on the topic “Academic Writing: Russian and International Experience,” which examined adapting pedagogical methods and materials used at U.S. universities to the Russian cultural and educational environment; and a Fulbright Summer School in partnership with the Agroengineering University and hosted by the Moscow National University of Food Production.

Media Sub-Working Group Meets

The BPC’s Media sub-Working Group met August 1 – 2 in St. Petersburg. The gathering included a number of U.S. and Russian correspondents as well as several deans of journalism schools.



Media sub-Working Group co-chairs Mikhail Gusman and Mauren Cormack along with other participants in St. Petersburg. (Photo credit: Bill Gentile, delegate)

The two sides agreed to support the continued exchange of U.S. and Russian journalists, which began in 2012. The discussions focused on the global revolution in communications and the advent of citizen journalism. One participant noted that this revolution in communications had produced an explosion of information, often visual rather than printed, not seen since Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press.

Emergency Situations

Emergency Situations Plenary

On June 25, the 4th annual Emergency Situations Working Group (ESWG) meeting took place at the Department of State’s George C. Marshall Conference Center in Washington, D.C. ESWG co-chairs U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) W. Craig Fugate and Minister Vladimir A. Puchkov of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations (EMERCOM) held a panel discussion on lessons learned from recent international disaster responses, including those to Hurricane Sandy, and the Chelyabinsk meteor impact.



Minister Puchkov (left) and FEMA Administrator Fugate sign the Emergency Situations Working Group’s meeting protocol.

Among the presentations was a summary of the July 2012 symposium on scientific monitoring and forecasting geo-hazards that was co-sponsored by the BPC’s Science and Technology and Emergency Situations Working Groups and held in Moscow. Plans were also discussed for the next geo-hazards workshop that will be held in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska, where geologists, oceanographers, and emergency managers will gather in Spring 2014 to discuss the formalization of mechanisms of exchange and notification regarding shared geo-hazards in the North Pacific.



EMERCOM summarized their successful visit in April to Boston to explore opportunities for exchange and partnership in graduate and undergraduate educational programs in Emergency Management and plans for follow-on discussions between Harvard University and EMERCOM's St. Petersburg Fire University. A proposal was also made to broaden the discussion of educational partnership to include cooperation with U.S. research and scientific institutions focusing on areas such as the development of geo-spacial information systems for the monitoring and prevention of emergency situations.

The director of EMERCOM's Mine Rescue Service proposed collaboration and exchange with the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration. In addition, EMERCOM and FEMA discussed establishing exchanges to study approaches to building volunteer service organizations such as the newly formed FEMA Corps.

One highlight of the gathering was the discussion of plans by EMERCOM and FEMA jointly to produce a documentary film on voluntary firefighting in the United States that will be used as part of a campaign to educate potential volunteers, citizens, and law makers about the alternative approaches to organizing volunteerism in Russia. FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration and the U.S. Forest Service would support EMERCOM's film crew by coordinating participating U.S. local firefighting units and serving as advisors on the use of volunteers in fighting structural and wild fires in the United States.

As a step towards greater operational cooperation in disaster response Minister Puchkov and Administrator Fugate agreed to explore the possibility of exchanging daily disaster watch reports. The ESWG also looks forward to achieving another milestone later this year as FEMA and EMERCOM take the lead in

organizing an international workshop on air medical evacuation under the umbrella of the NATO-Russia Council.

Energy

Russian Power Grid Delegation

The BPC's Energy Working Group hosted a delegation lead by Russian Grids Deputy General Director Roman Berdnikov August 7 – 8 that visited Massachusetts and New York. Coordinated through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the main purpose of the visit was to familiarize Russian Grids with research projects funded through the DOE Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) in the fields of advanced smart grid, storage technologies, research and development. The visit was also an opportunity to bring together electricity sector entities from the United States and Russia to discuss ongoing and future cooperation between the United States and Russian Grids under the Energy Working Group.

In Boston on August 7, the delegation met with officials from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Energy Initiative (EI), as well as MIT and Boston University researchers working on advanced grid storage technologies and electric grid system modeling. The group discussed potential future joint engagements between Russian Grids and these research groups where Russian Grids would be able to contribute and gain access to relevant research results. Further talks surrounded potential mechanisms for Russian Grids to leverage the results of ARPA-E research in advanced grid storage that is nearing commercialization. The delegation also met with American Superconductor to learn about advanced electrical infrastructure technologies and its potential use in Russia.

On August 8, the delegation traveled to the New York City metropolitan area to meet with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) where best practices and electric grid modernization efforts were shared by both sides. Additionally, Russian Grids and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory finalized the initiation of a joint pilot project under the EWG aimed at utilization of synchrophaser technology in Kaluga. Russian Grids officials also met with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) to discuss advanced power sector research.



Russian Grid officials meet with American Semiconductor representatives in Boston. (Photo credit: Department of Energy)

Russian Grids also agreed to hold a senior level meeting in the fall of 2013 to discuss the status of current EWG activities including city-to-city partnerships, finalization of the plan for the synchrophaser project in Kaluga, and a potential grid security modeling effort with the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Environment

Permafrost Collaboration

From August 22 – 29, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute scientists traveled to the Russian Northeast Science Station in Cherskiy to meet with Russian colleagues under the BPC's Environment Working Group. The focus was to examine permafrost, its vulnerability to climate change, and the potential for the release of large amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere should

such frozen soils thaw as a result of future rising temperatures. Permafrost is also known to contain high concentrations of the contaminant mercury, which also could be released into the atmosphere following a thaw.

Research into the coupling of permafrost thaw and contaminant release is a relatively new but vital topic in climate science. The U.S. and Russian researchers held field and laboratory demonstrations on the methods and instrumentation needed for making measurements from arctic landscapes. They also demonstrated methods for making similar measurements from inland water surfaces in collaboration with the National Science Foundation Arctic Great Rivers Observatory (Arctic-GRO) project. U.S. and Russian scientists have collaborated on Arctic-GRO studies for several years, conducting hydrological and carbon cycling studies on the Yukon River in Alaska and on the Kolyma River near Cherskiy. During the mission, USGS scientists also met with colleagues from the Melnikov Permafrost Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Yakutsk to discuss the characterization of permafrost distribution and degradation across Russia and North America.

Environmental Cooperation in 2014

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service representatives met with Russia's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment from June 3 – 4 to negotiate cooperation activities in 2013 – 2014. Since 1972, the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources has been a mechanism for collaborative nature conservation efforts between the two countries, addressing management of shared populations of marine mammals and migratory birds, fisheries, protected natural areas, endangered animal and plant species, invasive species, and wildlife diseases. U.S. and Russian federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations,

Native groups, and university researchers are able to build partnerships and share research through the activities outlined in the Agreement.

Community-based Fire Management

In July 2013, after over two years of Arctic Black Carbon mitigation work, the U.S. Forest Service and Pacific Environment convened a workshop to discuss lessons-learned and to explore options for sustaining and expanding community-based efforts in Russia.

The workshop, which was held in St. Petersburg, consisted of participation from six local NGO partners, including the Phoenix Fund from the Russian Far East and the Gebler Ecological Society from the Altai Krai. Participants discussed methods in each of their respective pilot areas, challenges in project implementation, and successes that have resulted from their work. These local-level efforts and experiences are valuable for finding new ways to address human-caused fires in Russia.



Two farmers received information on the impacts of agricultural burning

These efforts are designed to address open burning sources of black carbon, including agricultural burning and human-caused wildfires. These pilot programs are being implemented by international and local Russian NGOs, often in cooperation with local

government partners and volunteers, involving a mix of strategies to address human-caused fires and agricultural burning, including the development of educational resources, community fire wardens or monitors, and the establishment of mobile fire brigades.



Mobile fire brigade in Primorsky Krai.

Polar Bear Commission Meets

At the 5th meeting of the U.S. – Russia Polar Bear Commission, Commissioners approved the development of a Conservation Management Plan for the shared Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population. The Conservation Management Plan will identify important habitats, high priority research activities, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Studies that will inform sound management decisions for the shared population.



Photo Credit: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The Commission, which met June 5 in St. Petersburg, includes federal, state, and Native representatives from Russia and the United States. The group will continue to implement the Bilateral Treaty for the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population, which inhabits the Bering and Chukchi Seas. The current annual quota for Native subsistence harvest of the polar bears is set at 58, to be split evenly between the indigenous peoples of Alaska and Chukotka.

Environmental Technical Exchange

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hosted a technical exchange June 25 – 30 with a Russian delegation led by the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation. The exchange focused on U.S. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) legislation, hazardous waste cleanup, land revitalization and reuse using US financial mechanisms such as grants and other incentives, and the application of U.S. technologies in addressing legacy contaminated sites.

The Russian delegation included representatives from the Russian federal government and private sector, and the United Nations Development Programme. Representatives from the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Commerce, World Bank and U.S. industry participated in the meeting.

Because of the delegation's interest in U.S. remediation and waste destruction technologies, EPA cooperated with the U.S. Department of Commerce and Environmental Technology Associations under EPA's export promotion program to introduce this group to U.S. innovative and green technologies for the remediation and destruction of hazardous waste. During their visit, the Russian delegation observed U.S. technologies and best practices in land remediation and waste destruction from both EPA experts and U.S. companies.

After the meetings at EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs in Washington, D.C., the delegation visited EPA Region 2 in New York, where they toured a Brownfield site, The Highline, a public park built on an historic freight rail line elevated above the streets on Manhattan's West Side. The visit to the Highline showcased this large-scale land restoration and revitalization project that was the result of a cooperative effort by U.S. federal, state, and city governments and the local community.



The Highline's Chelsea Thicket, a densely-planted area of trees and shrubs between West 20th and West 22nd Streets, looking North. (Photo Credit: ©Iwan Baan, 2011)

The Russian delegation also visited the EPA Laboratory in Edison, N.J., the Cornell Dubilier Superfund site, and the TerraTherm site in Teterboro, N.J. where they saw innovative green technologies in action.

The visit produced a cooperation agreement between the Environmental Technology Council, and American trade council, and the newly-established Russian NGO "Technological Platform for Sustainable Environmental Development." The agreement includes frameworks for the exchange of technical information, expertise and cooperation on use of technologies and best practices, and strengthens capabilities and skills in waste management and remediation of contaminated sites.

Health

Scientific Joint Working Group Meets

Scientific staff from the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) co-chaired the annual U.S. – Russia Joint Working Group meeting in Moscow on July 18 and 19. At the meeting, presentations by the U.S. and Russian Principal Investigators were given on the progress of their collaborative projects sponsored by the first round of funding initiatives.

NIH and RFBR also approved new grants and collaborative projects between U.S. and Russian scientists in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention and research toward a cure for HIV/AIDS. In addition, discussions regarding the scientific focus of a third round of funding initiatives were held.

Based on the success of this bilateral collaboration, the leadership of the RFBR is very interested in developing a broad trans-NIH MOU for bilateral research with special emphasis on neurosciences, mental health, cancer, and bioimaging/bioengineering. The NIH-RFBR AIDS collaboration marks a significant accomplishment with far-reaching potential under the BPC's Health Working Group.

Military Cooperation

Defense Chiefs Hold Videoconference

On June 3, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin E. Dempsey and Chief of the General Staff General Valery Vasilevich Gerasimov conducted a video teleconference, during which they discussed regional and global security issues and agreed to prioritize nuclear security as a cooperative effort. The impetus behind the conference and the substance of the

discussion was an agreement by Presidents Obama and Putin this area of bilateral cooperation in light of the emerging threat of WMD proliferation, and the prospective use of these weapons and materials by terrorists.

Russian Engineering Forces visit Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices Training Facility

A Russian delegation, led by Deputy Chief of Engineering Forces, Gen-Maj Konstantin Smeshko, visited the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization headquarters in Washington, D.C. on June 17. During the visit, Mr. B. Ray Fitzgerald, Vice Director for JIEDDO, provided the Russian visitors with a JIEDDO Command brief and discussed areas of deeper cooperation between the United States and Russia.

Following the headquarters visit, the Russia delegation traveled to the Joint Center of Excellence training facility at Ft. Irwin, California. During this portion of the trip, Gen-Maj Smeshko sought to enhance his understanding of the technology and training used in U.S. efforts to counter improvised explosive devices.



Russian Engineers with U.S. counterparts at Fort Irwin.

Bilateral Fuels Exchange

The June 3 – 7 U.S. – Russia meeting on bilateral fuels exchange in Stuttgart, Germany

laid the groundwork for a Memorandum of Understanding for to support combined operations and exercises.

The meeting also touched on the need for a Technical Agreement, which will be a longer term project. A reciprocal visit is scheduled for September in Moscow to continue coordination.

Russian Navy Commander visits US

On July 16, the U.S. Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, hosted his counterpart, the Russian Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Viktor Chirkov, in Washington, D.C. In addition to the talks in Washington, Admiral Chirkov visited the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, the Pascagoula Navy Shipyard in Mississippi, and the Chief of Naval Education and Training in Pensacola, Florida. Topics discussed included the Asia-Pacific Rebalance, operations in the Arctic, Non-Commissioned Officer Development, and the current geo-political situation.

Afghanistan-Pakistan Sub-Working Group Meeting

United States Major General Michael H. Shields, the Joint Staff Director of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Coordination Cell, met his Russian counterpart, General Major Sergey F. Rudskoy, Deputy Chief of the Main Operations Directorate of the Russian General Staff, in Moscow May 31 – June 1. During their meetings, they addressed multiple issues, including counter-improvised explosive devices and Central/South Asia regional security.

Nuclear Security Exercise

In July, the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) participated in a Russian Ministry of Defense-hosted Nuclear Security Exercise at the Abramovo Counter-Terrorism Training Center in Sergiev Posad,

Russia. This exercise was a reciprocal event to the U.S.-hosted Nuclear Security Exercise called CRIMSON RIDER, in 2011.



Russian Colonel Motasov explains the convoy procedures to the U.S. delegation at the Abramovo Counter-Terrorism Training Center. (Photo Credit: Russian Ministry of Defense)

20th Air Force Commander Major General Michael Carey led the U.S. Delegation that included representatives from the Joint Staff, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, DTRA and the U.S. Department of Energy. The two-day exercise demonstrated tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) for all four phases of Ministry of Defense nuclear convoy security operations: convoy security, explosive ordinance disposal, medical support, and initial response of support forces, to include law enforcement. The Russian Ministry of Defense also showcased TTPs for air support and evasive driving skills.

Colonels Working Group

U.S. representatives met with Russian Ministry of Defense Ministry General Staff service counterparts and other organizations at the Colonels Working Group in Moscow June 25 and 26. The attendees reviewed implementation of the 2013 Military Cooperation Work Plan, and coordinated proposals for the 2014 Work Plan. Looking ahead to the 2014 Work Plan, both sides agreed to maintain momentum in

current areas of cooperation and that additional discussion is needed on U.S. proposals to expand nuclear security exchanges and defense support to civil authority.

Science and Technology

Nanotech & Nanotoxicology

Scientists from Russia, the United States, and several other countries gathered along the shores of Lake Baikal (Listvyanka, Russia) August 15 – 19 for the 2nd Applied Nanotechnology & Nanotoxicology meeting. Dr. Anna Shvedova from the U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health served on the Scientific Committee and spoke in the opening plenary session. The meeting serves to strengthen cooperation on environmental health and safety research, one of the key objectives of the Nanotechnology sub-Working Group of the BPC's Science and Technology Working Group. A third meeting is scheduled to take place in 2015 in Kazan, Russia.



ANNT attendees in Listvyanka (Lake Baikal), Russia.

The Conference covered the following topics: Nanotechnology (synthesis of novel nanostructured materials; unique physicochemical features of nanostructures; characterization methods for nanoparticles; nanosize effects in catalysis; nanotechnologies for green chemistry and clean energy); and Nanotoxicology (toxicology of nanoparticles; toxicity of purified and non-purified

nanomaterials, oxidative stress and antioxidants; tissue specific response to nanoparticles; recognition and clearance of nanoparticles; individual resistance/susceptibility to nano-contamination; animal models in nanotoxicology).

Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Security

HEU Removal in Vietnam

In July, the U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration's (DOE/NNSA) Global Threat Reduction Initiative, in a joint operation with the Russian Federation's State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), successfully removed the last 11 kilograms of highly enriched uranium (HEU) from the Dalat Nuclear Research Institute in Dalat, Vietnam.



HEU removal preparations

The removal was executed in close coordination with the Russian Federation, which has now partnered with the United States on similar projects in 14 countries. With this shipment, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam became the eleventh country from which all HEU has been removed since President Obama's 2009 announcement in Prague of an international effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear material around the world.

In Other News...

First Responders Battle on Ice

On June 25 – 26, New Yorkers were treated to the annual “Battles on Ice” organized by the Russian American Foundation (RAF) as part of the 11th Annual Russian Heritage Month.



The EMERCOM Firefighters Hockey Team and the New York City Fire Department's Hockey Team. Kneeling with the team are NYFD Commissioner Salvatore Cassano (left) and EMERCOM Minister Vladimir Puchkov (right) (Photo credit: Russian American Foundation)

In the words of RAF Vice President Rina Kirshner, “these friendship hockey games between New York City's Bravest and Russia's EMERCOM firefighters exemplify “how the people of Russia and the United States can come together in support of each other and build special bonds which will further develop friendships of peoples, cultures and countries.” As in prior years, the games served to commemorate the victims of terrorist acts in New York and Moscow. This year the counterterrorism theme was highlighted as special guests representing Boston's firefighters played the EMERCOM team in a tribute to the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing.

Protected Areas Managers Meet

A delegation from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service attended a meeting with all Russian federal nature reserve and national park

directors in Sayanogorsk, Khakassia. This nationwide meeting, titled “Prospects for Developing Ecotourism in Federally Protected Natural Areas,” was hosted by the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Government of the Republic of Khakassia.

Protected Area Management

Throughout the Summer 2013, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) organized three visits to Russia that allowed USFS specialists to work with local and national NGOs, and Russian National Parks and Reserves on ecotourism and protected area issues.

In June, a USFS trail specialist worked with the Great Baikal Trail NGO on efforts to improve trails and provide interpretation at Barguzinski Nature Reserve (famous for being the first protected area in Russia). In July, an interpretive planner and designer visited Baikalsky Reserve and Zabaikalsky National Park to provide consultations on visitor centers, interpretive trails, signs, and other interpretive issues. Finally, in August, a USFS Wilderness, Recreation, and Cultural Heritage specialist presented at a conference for protected area managers and others organized by the Ecocenter Zapovedniki NGO and Kenozerskiy National Park. She presented lessons learned on how protected areas in the U.S. engage with civil society to encourage participation in decision making and provide economic opportunities to local communities.

Visit and Commemoration

Lieutenant General Donald M. Campbell, Jr., Commander of U.S. Army Europe, visited Deputy Commander of Russian Ground Forces, Gen.-Lt. Lentzov August 21 – 25. During his visit, LTG Campbell also attended the 70th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Kursk.



Events Calendar

September

Bilateral Fuels Exchange meeting, Moscow.

September 11 – 18 Former U.S. poet laureate Billy Collins will discuss his career and the state of poetry in U.S. culture and do poetry readings at venues in Moscow and Yekaterinburg.

September 16 – 20

The annual Kuznetsov Naval Academy (KNA) and U.S. Naval War College (NWC) War Games will be hosted in Newport, RI.

September 17 – 20

“Innovation Week” events will take place in Boston, Massachusetts and Silicon Valley, California. Representatives from the BPC’s Innovation Working Group will participate.

September 17 – 18

The 18th Annual Russian – American Pacific Partnership will be held in Vladivostok.

September 23 – 28

The U.S. Geological Survey will meet with the Russian Academy of Sciences, ROSHYDROMET and EMERCOM in Obninsk and Moscow to discuss science and technology exchange related to seismic hazards.

September 24 – 29

“Berengia Days” will be held in Anadyr, Chukotka. The event will bring together native peoples of Alaska and Chukotka, as well as Russian and American scholars, researchers, environmentalists, and representatives of government and non-governmental organizations.

October 1 – 3

Acting Director of the U.S. Geological Survey Suzette Kimball will attend the EuroGeoSurvey meeting hosted by the Russian Geological Survey (VSEGEI) in St. Petersburg.

October 1 – 19 English Language Specialist Anne Marie Burke will be in Russia, giving workshops on Academic Writing. She will be presenting in Moscow, Petrozavodsk and St. Petersburg.

October 7 – 13 Professor of Marine Chemistry Jeffrey Bada will participate at the All-Russia Science Festival, organized by Moscow State University, in Moscow and Kursk.

October 30 Innovation Working Group meeting, Moscow.

November

Upcoming Colonels Working Group meeting in Germany.

November 4 – 6

U.S. Department of Energy oil and gas trade mission, Moscow

November 12 – 14

Counternarcotics Working Group meeting, Miami, Florida.

Autumn

Cyber Working Group inaugural meeting, Washington, D.C.

Autumn

Arms Control and International Security Working Group meeting.



Background on the BPC: In 2009, President Obama and then-President Medvedev created the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission to improve coordination between our countries, identify areas of cooperation, and pursue joint projects and actions that strengthen strategic stability, international security, economic well-being, and the development of ties between the Russian and American peoples. The BPC now consists of 20 working groups and numerous sub-working groups. President Putin and President Obama have both re-affirmed their commitment to the BPC.

Please visit the BPC website:
www.state.gov/russiabpc or contact:
PerrelliTT@state.gov

The BPC's 20 Working Groups are:

- Agriculture •Arms Control and International Security
- Business Development and Economic Relations •Counternarcotics •Counterterrorism
- Defense Relations •Education, Culture, Sports, and Media
- Emergency Situations •Energy
- Environment •Health •Innovation •Intelligence
- Military Cooperation •Military Technical Cooperation
- Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Security •Rule of Law •Science and Technology
- Space Cooperation •Steering